

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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SUBJECT: TRYBUNA LUDU COMMENTS ON IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION

REF: WARSAW 6188

1. SUMMARY: A COMMENTARY IN TRYBUNA LUDU BY IGNACY KRASICKI ON JANUARY 31, ENTITLED "AT A NEW STAGE OF CONFRONTATION", APPEARS TO CALL FOR GREATER UNITY AND IDEOLOGICAL COORDINATION AMONG RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN THE CORRECTNESS OF THE BASIC POLICIES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. KRASICKI BEGINS BY POINTING OUT THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DOES NOT MEAN A WORLD WITHOUT CONFLICT BUT ONE IN WHICH DEVELOPING CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST SYSTEMS WILL BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL RATHER THAN MILITARY MEANS. HE QUOTES LENIN IN DEFENSE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AGAINST "ADVENTURISTS" AND THEIR THESIS OF THE "PERMANENT REVOLUTION". HE ADDS THAT THE ACTION HAS NOW SHIFTED TO THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT AND THAT, IN GENERAL, THE GROWING STRENGTH AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TIPS THE SCALES IN THEIR FAVOR UNDER CONDITIONS OF PEACEFUL COMPETITION WITH THE CAPITALIST WORLD.

3. HOWEVER, KRASICKI ADDS, ONE PHENOMENON OF THIS NEW IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS IS THAT, WHENEVER THE TREND TOWARDS DETENTE BEGINS TO INDICATE NEW PERSPECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT, "FORCES STEP FORWARD" WHICH ATTEMPT TO UPSET THE BALANCE WHICH IS TAKING SHAPE. THUS, JUST AS 1974 APPEARED TO AUGUR WELL AT THE OUTSET AS THE FINAL YEAR OF CSCE, THERE "BURST INTO FLAME" IN CERTAIN WESTERN CIRCLES AN "ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN" AROUND THE WRITINGS OF SOLZHENITSYN, "AND PARTICULARLY HIS LAST BOOK "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO". IN THIS VEIN KRASICKI ALSO NOTES THE "SNUFFING-OUT IN A SEA OF BLOOD" "THE EMBRYO OF LIBERATION IN CHILE" BY "REACTIONARY FORCES".

4. BUT KRASICKI DOES NOT DESPAIR, HE ARGUES THAT THE ANSWER TO SUCH PROBLEMS OF IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION, AT A TIME WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IS BECOMING "IRRESISTIBLY" MORE INFLUENCED BY THE TREND TOWARDS DETENTE, IS GREATER COHESION AND UNITY OF ACTION BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE SAYS THAT THE COORDINATION OF IDEOLOGICAL EFFORTS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WAS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE "RECENT MEETING OF SECRETARIES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF BROTHERLY PARTIES IN MOSCOW".

5. THE SECOND PHENOMENON THAT KRASICKI WARNS ABOUT IS THE ATTEMPT BY CERTAIN "ANTI-COMMUNIST IDEOLOGUES" TO EXPLOIT

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FREER EAST-WEST ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO DEMORALIZE AND UNDERMINE SOCIALIST SOCIETIES. IN SUPPORT OF THIS HE QUOTES BRIEFLY FROM TWO AMERICAN BOOKS, "A FORWARD STRATEGY FOR AMERICA", AND BREZINSKI'S "ALTERNATIVE TO PARTITION", COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE LATTER WAS PUBLISHED IN 1965 AND ASSUME THAT THE OTHER ALSO CONSIDERABLY PRE-DATES DETENTE. END COMMENT.

6. KRASICKI CONCLUDES THAT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SHOULD CONDUCT THEIR "IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION WITH IMPERIALISM NOT ONLY WITH AN OFFENSIVE COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THIS DIVERSION," BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY BY LETTING SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY "SHINE THROUGH" AND LETTING THE "SUGGESTIVE OPERATION OF NUMEROUS FACTS" TESTIFY TO THE SUPERIORITY OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM OVER CAPITALISM.

7. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A FURTHER REFINEMENT OF THE POLICY ON IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION WHICH WE NOTICED BEGINNING TO EVOLVE IN EARLY DECEMBER (REFTEL). KRASICKI DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE "RECENT" DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW ON COORDINATING IDEOLOGICAL EFFORTS TOOK PLACE AT THE DECEMBER OR JANUARY MEETING. WE SUSPECT IT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT BOTH, WITH THE DECEMBER MEETING FOCUSING ON IDEOLOGICAL POLICY AND THE JANUARY ONE ON MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTING THE INTER-PARTY COORDINATION WHICH KRASICKI MENTIONS. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM KRASICKI'S ARTICLE THAT, ALTHOUGH THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL EAST-WEST IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION REMAINS IN EFFECT, THERE IS SOME CONCERN AMONG PARTY IDEOLOGISTS HERE--UNDOUBTEDLY FELT TO A GREATER DEGREE BY IDEOLOGISTS OF THE "BROTHERLY PARTIES" TO THE EAST AND WEST--OVER THE EROSION OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT THAT MAY ATTEND INCREASING EAST-WEST ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONTACT. WE DOUBT THAT KRASICKI'S LAME AND WEAKLY STATED WARNING AGAINST SUCH CONTACT WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT HERE.

DAVIES

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